

Consumer Task Force
January 23, 2007
Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: Tari Muñiz, Jack Vint, Jacqui Day, Joe Longcor, Robert Curtner, Laura Hall, Sara Harrison, Tandy Bidinger, Marion Owen, Ruth Smith, Sarah Swejda, Michael Head, Wendi Middleon, Tony Wong, Mary Ablan, Esther VanHammen

1. MINUTES - There were no comments or corrections on the minutes from December's meeting.

2. OFFICE OF LONG-TERM CARE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES UPDATE:

- Mike Head provided an overview of the recently awarded Deficit Reduction Act/Money Follows the Person Grant, to assist funding nursing facility transitions. This grant makes available for transition services up to \$67 million in grant funds over five years. The grant will provide enhanced federal funding for transition services. The grant funds about \$2 million for this year, including a planning process that will begin soon. The outcome of this process is an operational protocol for transition services. The plan should be complete by the end of May. A grant manager and evaluator will be hired. The national picture for this effort includes awards to 17 states totaling \$1.4 Billion.
- Staff is completing an annual report on the progress of the LTC Task Force recommendations. Much of the work done by the Long-Term Care Advisory Commission in their Task Force Progress Reports will be used to complete this report. The report to the Governor and the Department of Community Health Director will be available at next month's Consumer Task Force meeting.

3. PROJECT UP-DATES:

- **Medicaid Infrastructure Grant** - Joe Longcor. Nearly 1,000 people are now enrolled in the Freedom to Work initiative. Nine new Michigan Works Navigator positions have been funded to assist with improving services within the Michigan Works system. Jill Gerrie is the new Systems Change Director for Disability Network Michigan (formally Michigan Association of Centers for Independent Living). Additional update: the Department has determined that MIChoice waiver consumers can also be on Freedom To Work. The notice to waiver agents will be included in next month's project update package.
- **Cash & Counseling** - Tari Muniz. The MIChoice Self-Determination sites have five individuals now using Self-Determined arrangements. The Person-Centered Planning Policy and Practice Guide is in a staff re-draft and will go out for staff and field review within the next week. Some discussion followed on the importance and safeguards of consumers having a "real" person-centered planning experience. This included features of a quality management process and consumer feedback on quality of life measures, and the person-centered planning experience. The importance of the waiver organization's ability to develop and support a culture that values person-centered planning was also discussed.

The shortage of Personal Assistants was discussed as a possible barrier for MIChoice Self-Determination.

- **Independence Plus and Money Follows the Person** - Rob Curtner The 2007 Self-Determination Conference will be on June 11 & 12 at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing. Consumer Task Force members interested in attending should work with the Michigan Disability Rights Organization on registration and lodging arrangements. Individuals wishing to use one or several of the Michigan Partners for Freedom DVDs should contact Tami Finn via the ARC-Michigan, (517) 487-5426 ext. 106
www.mifreedom.org/home.html

A new video on Mental Illness stigma as a barrier in the community is available through the Saginaw Community Mental Health web site, <http://www.sccmha.org/Anti-Stigma/index.html>

- **Michigan Quality Community Care Council** - Sarah Swejda. The Quality Community Care Council is currently delivering a Peer Mentoring program, recruiting heavily in Wayne County and conducting orientations in five other counties. Consumer recruitment efforts using the Centers for Independent Living are also on-going.
- **Long-Term Care Advisory Commission** At the January Commission meeting, a review of the Long-Term Care Task Force Recommendation #7 (Quality Management) was conducted. The February meeting will include a retreat. There was no public input at the meeting.

4. **PUBLIC ACT 634** (single point of entry) The definition of terms and requirements, such as “What is a long-term care Support Plan?” will be developed by Office of Long-Term Care Supports and Services staff. Issues on consistency and agreement for the new bill will be considered.

5. **SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION GRANT** – Strategic Planning Update. Three workgroups (single point of entry, self-determination, and flexible funding) will meet three times to create a logic plan for implementation. The Systems Transformation Grant forum on March 28 at the Sheraton will present the plan elements to stakeholders. All Consumer Task Force members are encouraged to attend. More information will follow.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS.**

- A handout on the “Own Your Future” Long-Term Care Planning Kit was distributed. The available CD is excellent. To register to receive the CD go to the web site at www.aoa.gov/ownyourfuture/ltc_order_form.asp About 4.9% of the people who received the mailer on this campaign have signed up for the materials, with more women than men participating.
- Tandi distributed a handout on the DD Council awards nomination process. The deadline is Friday, February 16.